

AMENDED CLAIMS

[Received by the International Bureau on 29 August 2003 (29.08.03):
Claims unchanged: 2,4-8; Amended: 1; cancelled: 3 (1 page)]

1. A method for transporting TDM (Time Division Multiplex) time slots of a circuit switched connection from a first circuit switched node to a second circuit switched node through a packet switched network including a number of packet switched nodes, the circuit and packet switched nodes are all having the characteristics of a Multiprotocol Label Switch (MPLS),
5 characterized in the following steps:
in the first circuit switched node, encapsulating the time slots in a data frame adjusted to be transferred in the packet switched network,
stacking the data frame with at least one inner MPLS label
15 uniquely addressing a PCM system within the second circuit switched node and/or at least one outer MPLS label identifying a fixed path of consecutive packet switched nodes within the packet switched network, said outer label includes addresses of all the packet switched nodes
20 included in the fixed path in addition to an address of the second circuit switched node.
2. Method according to claim 1,
characterized in the following additional step:
25 in the second circuit switched node, removing the outer MPLS label and transferring the time slots to the PCM system addressed by the inner label.

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"Statement under article 19(1)" (Rule 46.4)

With reference to the cited document WO 01 87000 A (Fujitsu Network Communication) the previous claim 1 has been replaced with a new and amended claim 1. The amended claim 5 1 is emphasizing on the difference between the present invention and the cited document.

The cited document is focusing on the idea of using a single network element where connectionless signalling might be chosen with its advantages regarding scalability 10 and geographical range, or the signals might be given labels making it possible with traffic engineering and connection orientation to ensure a high quality connection. Hence each network element handles both connectionless and connection oriented signals.

15 The new claim 1 on the contrary emphasizes on the idea of using circuit switched (TDM) equipment with maintained degree of quality in a MPLS based network, and hence requiring an end-to-end connection oriented technology. The amendment focuses on this end to end connection oriented 20 philosophy in that the in the claim mentioned outer label includes addresses of all the packet switched nodes included in the fixed path in addition to an address of the second circuit switched node.

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